



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/598,270	06/21/2000	TOSHIHIRO SHIMIZU	106558	6415

25944 7590 03/27/2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. BOX 19928  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

DONNELLY, ARTHUR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3663

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/598,270

Applicant(s)  
Toshihiro Shimizu et al.

Examiner  
Arthur D. Donnelly

Art Unit  
3661



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 31, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 and 55-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 22-52, and 55-86 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20, 21, and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 3661

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abersfelder et al. (5,646,614).

Abersfelder et al. discloses a vehicle parking assist device comprising a camera for picking up an image of a backward area of a vehicle, a display means for displaying the image picked up by the camera (Column 3 lines 11-26), an obstacle sensor for detecting the presence or absence of an obstacle in the backward area of the vehicle (Column 4 lines 49-54), a drive assist means for detecting a driving condition and checking if the vehicle backs for parking, the drive assist means when the vehicle backs for displaying drive assist information for parking and safety check means for checking the parking drive ends on the basis of the result of the obstacle detection by the obstacle sensor and when the parking drive ends the safety check means for causing the display means to display the end of the parking drive (Column 5 lines 61 through Column 6 lines 6).

Art Unit: 3661

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maekawa (5,530,771).

Maekawa discloses a vehicle parking assist device comprising a camera for picking up a image in a frontward area of a vehicle, a display means for displaying a image from the camera, a storing means for reading and storing the image picked up by the camera and drive assist means for acquiring information for a vehicle drive assist on the basis of the image stored in the storing means (Abstract).

*Allowable Subject Matter*

5. Claims 1-19 and 22-52 and 55-86 are allowed. The prior art of record fails to show or teach a camera with a steering angle detecting means for detecting a steering angle for steering the vehicle, a traveling path predicting means for predicting a traveling path of the vehicle on the basis of the steering angle detected by the steering angle detecting means and drive assist means for overlaying on the display means drive assist information containing the vehicle predictive traveling path predicted by the traveling path predicting means and guide lines prolonged from the lines defining the width of the vehicle body on the image of the area existing in the vehicle

Art Unit: 3661

advancing direction, a drive assist means when the reverse gear mode detecting means judges that the transmission is set to reverse gear mode for changing a display by the display means and informing a driver that the transmission is in a reverse gear mode thereby effecting the drive assist.

*Conclusion*


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Donnelly whose telephone number is (703) 305-0215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday on the first and third weeks of the month and from Monday - Friday on the second and forth weeks of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William A. Chuchlinski Jr., can be reached on (703) 308-3873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

add

March 9, 2002

  
WILLIAM A. CUCHLINSKI, JR.  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600